

MIS

MISCREATE. *adj.* [*mis* and *created*.] Formed unnaturally, or illegitimately; made as by a blunder of nature.

Then made he head against his enemies,
And Ymmer flew or Logris miscreate. *Fa. Q. b. ii.*
Effoons he took that miscreated fair,
And that false other sprite, on whom he spread
A seeming body of the subtle air. *Spenser.*

That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading;
With opening titles miscreate, whose right
Suits not in native colours with the truth. *Shakespeare.*
God forbid, my lord,
That you should fashion, wrest, or bow your reading;
With opening titles miscreate, whose right
Suits not in native colours with the truth. *Shakespeare.*

MISDEED. *n. f.* [*mis* and *deed*.] Evil action.
O God,
If thou wilt be aveng'd on my misdeeds,
Yet execute thy wrath on me alone. *Shakespeare. Rich. III.*
Evils, which our own misdeeds have wrought.
Chas'd from a throne, abandon'd, and exil'd
For foul misdeeds, were punishments too mild. *Dryden.*

To MISDEEM. *v. a.* [*mis* and *deem*.] To judge ill of; to mis-
take.
All unweeting an enchanter bad
His sense abus'd, and made him to misdeem
My loyalty, not such as it did seem. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
Besides, were we unchangeable in will,
And of a wit that nothing could misdeem;
Equal to God, whose wisdom shineth still
And never errs, we might ourselves esteem. *Davies.*

To MISDEMEAN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *demean*.] To behave ill.
From frailty
And want of wisdom, you, that best should teach us,
Have misdeem'd yourself. *Shakespeare. Henry VIII.*
MISDEMEANOR. *n. f.* [*mis* and *demean*.] Offence; ill beha-
viour; something less than an atrocious crime.

The house of commons have only power to censure the
members of their own house, in point of election or misde-
meanors, in or towards that house. *Bacon.*
It is no real disgrace to the church merely to lose her pri-
vileges, but to forfeit them by her fault or misdeemeanor. *South.*
These could never have touched the head, or stopped the
source of these unhappy misdeemeanors, for which the punish-
ment was sent. *Woodward's Nat. Hist. p. ii.*

MISDEVOTION. *n. f.* [*mis* and *devotion*.] Mistaken piety.
A place, where misdevotion frames
A thousand prayers to fancies, whose very names
The church knew not, heav'n knows not yet. *Donne.*

MISDICTION. *n. f.* [*mis* and *dict*.] Improper food.
A drop through his flesh did flow,
Which by misdiet daily greater grew. *Fairy Queen, b. i.*
To MISDISTINGUISH. *v. a.* [*mis* and *distinguish*.] To make
wrong distinctions.

If we imagine a difference where there is none, because
we distinguish where we should not, it may not be denied
that we misdistinguish. *Hooker, b. iii.*
To MISDO. *v. a.* [*mis* and *do*.] To do wrong; to commit a
crime; to offend.

Afford me place to shew what recompence
T'wards thee I intend for what I have misdone. *Milton.*
To MISDO. *v. n.* To commit faults.
Try the erring soul
Not wilfully misdoing, but unaware
Mistaken. *Paradise Regain'd, b. i.*

The worst is, to think ourselves safe so long as we keep
our injuries from the knowledge of men, and out of our own
view, without any awe of that all-seeing eye that observes all
our misdoings. *L'Estrange.*
I have misdone, and I endure the smart,
Loth to acknowledge, but more loth to part. *Dryden.*

MISDOER. *n. f.* [*mis* and *do*.] An offender; a criminal; a
malefactor.
Were they not contained in duty with a fear of law, which
inflicteth sharp punishments to misdoers, no man should enjoy
any thing. *Spenser on Ireland.*
To MISDOUBT. *v. a.* [*mis* and *doubt*.] To suspect of deceit
or danger.

If the only misdoubted me, I were in heaven; for quickly I
would bring sufficient assurance. *Sidney, b. ii.*
I do not misdoubt my wife, but I would be loth to turn
them both together; a man may be too confident. *Shakespeare.*
The bird that hath been limed in a bush,
With trembling wings misdoubteth ev'ry bush;
And I, the hapless male to one sweet bird,
Have now the fatal object in my eye,
Where my poor young was lim'd, was caught, and kill'd.
Shakespeare's Henry VI. p. iii.

If you misdoubt me that I am not free,
I know not how I shall assure you farther. *Shakespeare.*
To believe his wiles my truth can move,
Is to misdoubt my reason or my love. *Dryden.*

MISDOUBT. *n. f.* [*mis* and *doubt*.]
1. Suspicion of crime or danger.
He cannot so precisely weed this land,

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As his misdoubts present occasion;
His foes are so enrouted with his friends,
That, plucking to unfix an enemy,
He doth unfasten so and shake a friend. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*

2. Irresolution; hesitation.
York, feel thy fearful thoughts,
And change misdoubt to resolution. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*
MISE. *n. f.* [*French*.] Issue. Law term.
To MISEMPLOY. *v. a.* [*mis* and *employ*.] To use to wrong
purposes.

Their frugal fathers gains they misemploy,
And turn to point and pearl, and ev'ry female toy. *Dryd.*
Some taking things upon trust, misemploy their power by
lazily enslaving their minds to the dictates of others. *Locke.*
That vain and foolish hope, which is misemployed on tem-
poral objects, produces many sorrows. *Addison's Spect.*
They grew dissolute and prophane; and by misemploying the
advantages which God had thrown into their laps, provoked
him to withdraw them. *Atterbury.*

MISEMPLOYMENT. *n. f.* [*mis* and *employment*.] Improper ap-
plication.
An improvident expence, and misemployment of their time
and faculties. *Hale's Origin of Mankind.*

MISER. *n. f.* [*miser*, Latin.]
1. A wretched person; one overwhelmed with calamity.
Do not disdain to carry with you the woful words of a
miser now despairing; neither be afraid to appear before her,
bearing the base title of the fender. *Sidney, b. ii.*
I wish that it may not prove some ominous foretoken of
misfortune to have met with such a miser as I am. *Sidney.*
Fair son of Mars, that seek with warlike spoil
And great achievements, great yourself to make,
Vouchsafe to stay your steed for humble miser's sake. *Fairy Queen, b. ii.*

2. A wretch; a mean fellow.
Decrepit miser! base ignoble wretch!
I am defended of a gentler blood. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*
3. A wretch covetous to extremity; one who in wealth makes
himself miserable by the fear of poverty.

Though he be dearer to my soul than rest
To weary pilgrims, or to misers gold,
Rather than wrong Castilio I'd forget her. *Ortwin's Orphan.*
No silver fancies by dying misers giv'n,
Here brib'd the rage of ill-requited heav'n;
But such plain roofs as piety could raise,
And only vocal with the Maker's praise. *Pope.*

MISERABLE. *adj.* [*miserable*, French; *miser*, Latin.]
1. Unhappy; calamitous; wretched.
O nation miserable,
With an untitled tyrant, bloody scepter'd!
When shalt thou see thy wholesome days again? *Shakespeare.*
Most miserable is the desire that's glorious. *Shakespeare.*
What's more miserable than discontent? *Shakespeare.*
It is probable that there will be a future state, and then
how miserable is the voluptuous unbeliever left in the lurch.
South's Sermons.

What hopes delude thee, miserable man? *Dryden's Zen.*
2. Wretched; worthless.
Miserable comforters are ye all. *Job xvi. 2.*
3. Culpably parsimonious; stingy.

MISERABLENESS. *n. f.* [*from miserable*.] State of misery.
MISERABLY. *adv.* [*from miserable*.]
1. Unhappily; calamitously.
Of the five employed by him, two of them quarrell'd, one
of which was slain, and the other hanged for it; the third
drowned himself; the fourth, though rich, came to beg his
bread; and the fifth was miserably stabbed to death. *South.*

2. Wretchedly; meanly.
As the love I bear you makes me thus invite you; so the
same love makes me ashamed to bring you to a place, where
you shall be so, not spoken by ceremony but by truth, miser-
ably entertained. *Sidney, b. ii.*
3. Covetously. *Ainsworth.*

MISERY. *n. f.* [*miseria*, Latin; *miser*, French.]
1. Wretchedness; unhappiness.
My heart is drown'd with grief,
My body round engirt with misery. *Shakespeare. Henry VI.*
Happiness, in its full extent, is the utmost pleasure we are
capable of, and misery the utmost pain. *Locke.*

2. Calamity; misfortune; cause of misery.
When we our betters see bearing our woes,
We scarcely think our miseries our foes.
The gods from heav'n survey the fatal strife,
And mourn the miseries of human life. *Dryden's Zen.*

3. [From *miser*.] Covetousness; avarice. Not in use.
He look'd upon things precious, as they were
The common muck o' th' world: he covets less
Than misery itself would give. *Shakespeare. Coriolanus.*
In a fabrick of forty thousand pounds charge, I with thirty
pounds laid out before in an exact model; for a little misery
may easily breed some absurdity of greater charge. *Watson.*

MISFORTUNE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *fortune*.] Calamity; ill luck;
want of good fortune.
Fortune thus 'gan fay, misery and misfortune is all one,
And of misfortune, fortune hath only the gift. *Sidney.*
What world's delight, or joy of living speech,
Can heart so plung'd in sea of sorrows deep,
And heaped with so huge misfortunes reach? *Fa. Q.*
Consider why the change was wrought;
You'll find it his misfortune, not his fault. *Addison.*

To MISFORTUNE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *fortune*.] To fill with doubt; to
deprive of confidence. It is used always with the reciprocal
pronoun.
As Henry's late prefacing prophecy
Did glad my heart with hope of this young Richmond;
So doth my heart with hope of this young Richmond;
What may befall him, to his harm or ours. *Shakespeare.*
This is strange! Who hath got the right Anne?
My heart misgives me. *Shakespeare. Merry Wives of Windsor.*
Yet off his heart divine of something ill,
Misgave him. *Milton.*

If a conscience thus qualified and informed, be not the
measure by which a man may take a true estimate of his ab-
solute, the finer is left in the plunge of infinite doubts,
suspensions, and misgivings, both as to the measures of his
present duty, and the final issues of his future reward. *South.*
His heart misgave him, that these were so many meeting-
houses; but, upon communicating his suspicions, I soon made
him easy. *Addison's Freeholder, N° 47.*

To MISGOVERN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *govern*.] To govern ill; to
administer unfaithfully.
Solymann charged him bitterly, that he had misgoverned the
state, and inverted his treasures to his own private use.
Kneller's Hist. of the Turks.

MISGOVERNED. *adj.* [*from misgovern*.] Rude; uncivilized.
Rude, misgovern'd hands, from window tops,
Threw dust and rubbish on king Richard's head. *Shakespeare.*
MISGOVERNANCE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *governance*.] Irregularity.
Thy mind too long lumbereth in following,
Lulled asleep through love's misgovernance. *Spenser's Past.*

MISGOVERNMENT. *n. f.* [*mis* and *government*.]
1. Ill administration of public affairs.
Men lay the blame of those evils whereof they know not
the ground, upon public misgovernment. *Raleigh's Essays.*
2. Ill management.
Men are miserable, if their education hath been so undisc-
iplined, as to leave them unfurnished of skill to spend their
time; but most miserable, if such misgovernment and unskil-
fulness make them fall into vicious company. *Taylor.*

3. Irregularity; inordinate behaviour.
There is not chastity enough in language
Without offence to utter them: thus, pretty lady,
I am sorry for thy much misgovernment. *Shakespeare.*
MISGUIDANCE. *n. f.* [*mis* and *guidance*.] False direction.
The Nicene council fixed the equinox the twenty-first of
March for the finding out of Easter; which has caused the
misguidance from the sun which we lie under in respect of
Easter, and the moveable feasts. *Holder on Time.*
Whoever deceives a man, makes him ruin himself; and
by causing an error in the great guide of his actions, his judg-
ment, he causes an error in his choice, the misguidance of
which must naturally engage him to his destruction. *South.*

To MISGUIDE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *guide*.] To direct ill; to lead
the wrong way.
Hunting after arguments to make good one side of a
question, and wholly to neglect those which favour the other,
is wilfully to misguide the understanding; and is so far from
giving truth its due value, that it wholly debases it. *Locke.*
Misguided prince! no longer urge thy fate,
Nor tempt the hero to unequal war.
Of all the causes which conspire to blind
Man's erring judgment, and misguide the mind,
What the weak head with strongest bias rules,
Is pride, the never-failing vice of fools. *Pope.*

MISHAP. *n. f.* [*mis* and *hap*.] Ill chance; ill luck; cala-
mity.
To tell you what miserable mishaps fell to the young prince
of Macedon his cousin, I should too much fill your ears with
strange horrors. *Sidney, b. ii.*
Since we are thus far entered into the consideration of her
mishaps, tell me, have there been any more such tempests
wherein the hath thus wretchedly been wrecked. *Spenser.*

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MISREVEREND. *n. f.* [*mis* and *reverend*.] Disregard; slight.
To MISREVEREND. *v. a.* [*mis* and *reverend*.] To form wrong.
A thing in reason impossible, thorough their misfashioned
preconceive, appeared unto them no less certain, than if nature
had written it in the very foreheads of all the creatures of
God. *Hakewill on Providence.*

To MISFORM. *v. a.* [*mis* and *form*.] To put in an ill form.
His monstrous scalp down to his teeth it tore,
And that misformed shape misshaped more. *Spenser.*
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Sir knight, take to you wonted strength,
And master these mishaps with patient might. *Fa. Queen.*
Rome's readiest champions, repose you here,
Secure from worldly chances and mishaps. *Shakespeare.*

It cannot be
But that success attends him: if mishap,
Ere this he had return'd, with fury driv'n
By his avengers; since no place like this
Can fit his punishment, or your revenge. *Milton's P. Left.*

If the worst of all mishaps hath fallen,
Speak; for he could not die unlike himself. *Denham.*
MISHMASH. *n. f.* *Ans.* A low word. A mingle or hotch-
potch.

To MISINFER. *v. a.* [*mis* and *infer*.] To infer wrong.
Nestorius teaching rightly, that God and man are distinct
natures, did thereupon misinfer, that in Christ those natures
can by no conjunction make one person. *Hooker, b. v.*

To MISINFORM. *v. a.* [*mis* and *inform*.] To deceive by false
accounts.
Some belonged to a man of great dignity, and not as that
wicked Simon had misinformed. *2 Mac. iii. 11.*
By no means trust to your servants, who mislead you, or
misinform you; the reproach will lie upon yourself. *Bacon.*

Let her well beware,
Left by some fair-appearing good surpriz'd,
She dictate false; and misinform the will
To do what God expressly hath forbid. *Milton's Par. Left.*

MISINFORMATION. *n. f.* [*from misinform*.] False intelligence;
false accounts.
Let not such be discouraged as deserve well, by misinfor-
mation of others, perhaps out of envy or treachery. *Bacon.*
The vengeance of God, and the indignation of men, will
join forces against an insulting benefactor, when backed with
greatness, and let on by misinformation. *South's Sermons.*

To MISINTERPRET. *v. a.* [*mis* and *interpret*.] To explain to
a wrong sense.
The gentle reader rests happy to hear the worthiest works
misinterpreted, the clearest actions obscured, and the inno-
centest life traduced. *Benj. Johnson.*

After all the care I have taken, there may be several pas-
sages misquoted and misinterpreted. *Arbutnot on Coins.*
To MISJOIN. *v. a.* [*mis* and *join*.] To join unfitly or improp-
erly.

In reason's absence mimic fancy wakes
To imitate her; but misjoining shapes,
Wild work produces oft, and most in dreams;
Ill-matching words, and deeds, long past, or late. *Milton.*

Luther, more mistaking what he read,
Misjoins the sacred body with the bread. *Dryden.*
To MISJUDGE. *v. a.* [*mis* and *judge*.] To form false opinions;
to judge ill.

Where we misjudge the matter, a miscarriage draws pity
after it; but when we are transported by pride, our ruin lies
at our own door. *L'Estrange.*
You misjudge;
You see through love, and that deludes your sight;
As, what is straight, seems crooked through the water.

By allowing himself in what is innocent, he breeds offence
to his weak and misjudging neighbour. *Atterbury's Sermons.*
Infernal!

Too long misjudging have I thought thee wife,
But sure relentless folly steals thy breast. *Pope.*
To MISLAY. *v. a.* [*mis* and *lay*.] To lay in a wrong place.
Mean time my worthy wife, our arms mislay'd,
And from beneath my head my sword convey'd. *Dryden.*

The fault is generally mislaid upon nature; and there is
often a complaint of want of parts, when the fault lies in
want of a due improvement. *Locke.*
If the butler be the tell-tale, mislay a spoon, so as he may
never find it. *Swift's Rules to Servants.*

MISLAY. *n. f.* [*from mislay*.] One that puts in the wrong
place.
The mislayer of a mere-stone is to blame: but the unjust
judge is the capital remover of land-marks, when he defineth
amids of lands. *Bacon's Essays.*

To MISLEAD. *v. a.* [*mis* and *lead*.] To guide a wrong way;
to betray to mischief or mistake.
Take, oh take those lips away,
That so sweetly were forsworn;
And those eyes, the break of day,
Lights that do mislead the morn. *Shakespeare.*

Those we love,
That are misled upon your cousin's part. *Shakespeare. Henry IV.*
Poor misled men: your states are yet worthy pity.
If you would hear, and change your savage minds,
Leave to be mad. *Benj. Johnson's Cataline.*

Trust not to your servants who mislead or misinform you.
Bacon's Advice to Villiers.

O thieves!